

To prove by mathematical induction that the number of iterations for the `count` method in the `Foursum` class can be represented by the combination formula:

$$= \binom{n}{4} = \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)}{24}$$

Basis Step

For ($n = 4$):

$$= \binom{4}{4} = \frac{4!}{4!0!} = 1$$

The loops would iterate as follows:

- `i = 0` , `j = 1` , `k = 2` , `l = 3`

There is exactly one combination of four indices (0, 1, 2, 3) when ($n = 4$), which matches $= \binom{4}{4} = 1$.

Induction Step

Assume the formula holds for some arbitrary ($n = k$). That is, assume:

=Number of iterations = $\binom{k}{4} = \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)(k-3)}{24}$ We need to prove that the formula holds for ($n = k+1$):

$$= \binom{k+1}{4} = \frac{(k+1)k(k-1)(k-2)}{24}$$

Induction Hypothesis

We assume the following holds true:

$$= \binom{k}{4} = \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)(k-3)}{24}$$

Induction Step Calculation

We need to show that adding one more element (to get ($n = k+1$)) fits the combination formula.

The total number of ways to pick 4 indices from ($k+1$) elements is the sum of two parts:

1. Choosing 4 elements from the first (k) elements.
2. Choosing 3 elements from the first (k) elements and the ($(k+1)$)-th element.

First part:

$$= \binom{k}{4} = \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)(k-3)}{24}$$

Second part:

$$= \binom{k}{3} = \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)}{6}$$

Adding the $(k+1)$ -th element to any of the combinations of 3 from the first k :

$$= (k+1) \times \binom{k}{3} = (k+1) \times \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)}{6}$$

Thus, combining both parts:

$$= \binom{k+1}{4} = \binom{k}{4} + (k+1) \times \binom{k}{3}$$

Substituting the known formulas:

$$= \binom{k+1}{4} = \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)(k-3)}{24} + (k+1) \times \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)}{6}$$

Simplifying:

$$= = \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)(k-3)}{24} + \frac{(k+1)k(k-1)(k-2)}{6}$$

Finding a common denominator (24):

$$= = \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)(k-3) + 4(k+1)k(k-1)(k-2)}{24}$$

Factoring out $k(k-1)(k-2)$:

$$= = \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)[(k-3) + 4(k+1)]}{24}$$

$$= = \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)[k-3+4k+4]}{24}$$

$$= = \frac{k(k-1)(k-2)[5k+1]}{24}$$

Which simplifies to:

$$= = \frac{(k+1)k(k-1)(k-2)}{24}$$

Thus, we have shown that:

$$= \binom{k+1}{4} = \frac{(k+1)k(k-1)(k-2)}{24}$$